

Three stars of the week

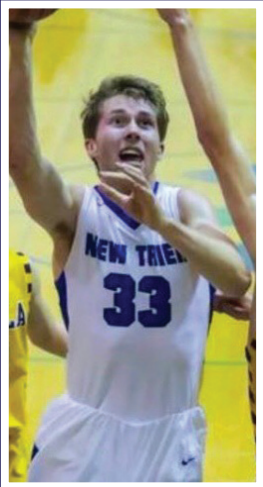
Darcy Barkal



Twitter

Set a school record on the vault for Gymnastics

Spencer Boehm



Twitter

Led team with 19 points (5 threes) in win over Lakeview

Ella Huber



Huber

Scored 12 goals and picked up 9 assists in a mere 6 games

Correction

In the December 7th article "Girls swimming and dive takes state," Kaelyn Gridley took first place in the 100 meter breast stroke.

30-game win streak halted as NTG falls to LA

LA's Shearson out-duels NT's Reger in low scoring quad header

by Jack Soble

New Trier Boys Hockey's Green Team drew a blank in the quad header against Loyola, falling to the Ramblers by a score of 2-0 on Dec. 2.

The Ramblers' senior goaltender, Andrew Shearson, played lights out, stopping all 22 shots he faced.

Despite a rowdy crowd, solid performance by goalie Owen Reger and heading into the game without a defeat all season, the Green team couldn't break through after Loyola scored 39 seconds after the opening faceoff.

"The quad header was a tough game to lose, especially since it was our first loss," said senior forward Bobby Soudan. "It's also never great to lose in front of so many of our peers, but we won't let that loss affect our season."

Loyola's first goal came immediately after an offensive zone draw, when senior defenseman Eagan Callahan fired a blast from the left point with traffic in front of the goal crease. Senior forward Eamon O'Brien extended the lead and all but closed it out with an empty netter late in the contest.

New Trier, coached by Bob Melton, had multiple point blank opportunities to put one past Shearson, but he stopped them all.

The last one was a redirected shot from the right point, followed by a scrum in front. The Trevians took



New Trier's JT Travis takes a draw against Loyola's Glynn Elliot | Twitter

multiple hacks at the loose puck, but Shearson and Loyola's defenders held their own until the final horn.

"The quad is always a different game. For the new kids on the team, it's the biggest crowd they've ever played in front of and that's definitely not easy," said fellow senior forward JT Travis.

Senior forward Dylan Kochman was more direct.

"The quad was definitely the worst game that or team has played all season," he said.

While Travis, as of Dec. 10, is tied for the team lead with Mark Ashmore at 21 goals a piece, Soudan leads NTG with 41 points in 34 games on the season, one year after doing the same.

A pass-first player, Soudan has

picked up more assists than goals scored in both campaigns.

As one of multiple returning contributors, Soudan has been pleased with the way his team has started the season, in spite of the loss to Loyola.

"This team has impressed me with work ethic and depth more than anything. I am confident that every player on our team can contribute to the team in a positive way," he said.

New Trier began the season on Sept. 6 with a 7-0 victory over Notre Dame College Prep and, kept up the streak for months, 30 games a two time span.

Right now, they sit at 34-2-1, in great position to make noise in the second half of the season and into March. They even have another shot

at their arch-rivals, the Ramblers, on Jan. 12.

"Loyola is always the game we look forward to," said Travis.

A large part of the Trevians' success has been their goaltending play. Senior Owen Reger and sophomore Preston Watt are both in their first years on NTG, replacing class of '18 goalies Hayden Wiczorek and Ethan Paul.

Watt is undefeated at 19-0, but Reger has averaged fewer goals against thus far (1.49 to 1.79).

"Both of them have been playing outstanding," said Kochman, who has among the highest point totals on the team at 36. "I anticipate them continuing to split time, and the team feels very confident when both of them are in net," he said.

The Trevians are in a bounce-back mode for the 2018-19 season, after a disappointing 8-3 playoff defeat at the hands of Glenbrook South last year. Per Coach Melton via Winnetka Talk, it was their quickest elimination in the past 21 seasons.

In the year prior, NTG took home the state title at the United Center. And instead of dwelling on the Loyola loss, New Trier has turned their attention to returning to the home of the Blackhawks and Bulls.

Coincidentally, NTG at its current state could probably beat the Blackhawks. And if they exchanged their skates for high tops, they could probably beat the Bulls too.

"In the long run, our goal is to get to the United Center, and the quad loss doesn't affect our path to get there," said Soudan. "So we're keeping our heads up and staying motivated to keep improving."

Cheer takes third in first competition of season

NT stunts, tumbles its way to top-3 finish at midwest cheerfest

by Millie Winter

On Dec. 2, NT cheerleading took third place in their first competition of the season at the midwest cheerfest at Carl Sandburg High School.

The team not only placed third, but they also hit zero. This means the team got through their entire routine with no bobbles, stunt drops, or other mistakes.

Freshman Tara O'Brien explained, "We have only had one competition so far, but we placed amazing for our first competition and we can only go up from here."

Head coach Kelsey O'Kane said, "Each year we will continue to grow. The commitment, dedication and hard work of this team is what will help us realize the greatest success - and we're well on our way."

Senior Becca Pollak was content with how are team did for their very first competition.

"I was completely in shock that I was a part of that and was able to bring something amazing back to the school," she said.

The cheer team participates in competitions almost every weekend, this was their first of the season.

With competitions occurring so often, it doesn't give much time to perfect their detailed routines.

"I think the hardest part of preparing is when stunts, tumbling, or jumps don't hit correctly and things that should work don't," Pollak explained.

The judges score the teams on all aspects of their routines: stunting, jumping, showmanship, motions, and



NT cheer poses in the middle of football game routine in August. They finished on the podium on Dec. 2. | Instagram

more.

Senior Emmanuel Ruiz described the scoring system in detail: "Not only do we get scored for doing these things, but technique also gets accounted for in the scoring. Within the categories, there are different difficulty levels."

When it comes to presenting their routine and worrying about scoring, it is easiest to get points from showmanship (how the team presents themselves on the mat through smiling and facial expressions) and loudness.

The most nerve racking part is hitting the stunts and tumbles.

"The hardest part is perfecting it. It doesn't take long to know your part, but then you have to make sure your motions are sharp and that can be hard," explained O'Brien.

The team brings high energy to the mats and is learning many new stunts and getting more advanced, per

O'Brien.

A lot of time and effort was spent perfecting the routines they brought to the Sandburg competition.

"We are in the weight room twice a week. A typical 2.5 hour practice includes setting up our mats, a dynamic warm up, review of changes, drilling new skills, stunts and editing our routine counts to maximize our score," said O'Kane.

Pollak added, "It took all the way from late October to early December to perfect and get ready for our first competition this year. Now we are working on creating a bigger and better routine for the upcoming season."

It is clear the judges are looking at several different aspects in a single cheer routine, from the cheerleaders smiles to their flips in the air.

Preparing for the competition weeks of practice, according to O'Kane.

"There are so many pieces of the puzzle that need to fit together just right. On average, a competitive routine can take up to eight weeks to perfect. Once you get to this point, you start adding difficulty until you've put your absolute best out there," she explained.

With the ICCA championship just around the corner on Jan.5, the team will be changing the routine.

"It's hard applying the changes, but we do it and we make it work," explained O'Brien.

The cheer team is a tight-knit family, and they are there to catch each other when they fall (on and off the mat).

"Cheerleading has an amazing number of wonderful, hardworking, and loving boys and girls," said Freshman Mimi Wagner. "The cheer team is an amazing place to be yourself and feel accepted."